TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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consequently I'm offering this one which I think would be obviously a good idea. The portion of the bill, if you would like to follow along, that I'm dealing with is page 3 of the bill. starting at the top. That is new language put into the bill on Select File which dealt with subject matter of interest to public utilities. And it really should have had considerable debate because it will have the effect of shifting ... shifting costs from commercial interests to the extent that they benefit from the break in rates that's allowed by this amendment onto residential customers. But what the ... what the bill does, in effect, is allow a public utility to give rate breaks to large commercial interests. And it allows it for a limited period of time. And you'll see down on lines 9 and 10 that one of the things that has to happen is that the customer who's getting rate break has entered into an agreement with the state or any political subdivision to provide an economic development project. So this is perceived as an economic development tool. And my amendment doesn't argue the basic premise of the...of the bill, but what the amendment does say is that if we're going to essentially subsidize a commercial interest, then we ought not to be subsidizing jobs that are below a living wage, because if we do that all we're doing is creating additional subsidies for the state, when it comes time to take care of these families in the form of child care, in the form of medical payments, in the form of food stamps, et cetera. So what my amendment says is that with respect to any economic development project that is the beneficiary of subsidies, whether from ... from the utility companies, the public utility companies, that employees on that particular project should be paid a living wage. And that wage is defined as \$8.19 an hour if you have health care benefits, and \$9.01 an hour if you don't. And that's based on the federal poverty guidelines. If you're making less than that, then under those guidelines you're living in poverty. So that's the basic premise of the amendment. And in doing this I wanted to be sure that I have you the opportunity, if any of you missed this document that was done by the Bureau of Business Research, which I think you all know does a lot of research on business in Nebraska, and a number of different topics related to business and to workers and wage earners and the Nebraska economic And they took on, at one point in time, the job of situation. analyzing in Nebraska what you had to make for your family to